

# General Plan Safety Element Update

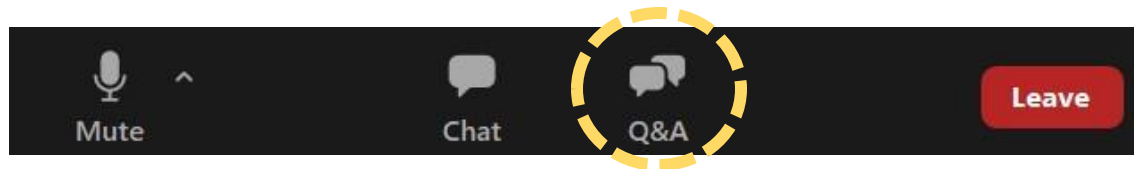
March 24, 2021



# Webinar

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- Participants will be muted during the presentation.
- We will have a Q&A after the presentation. Please type your questions into the Q&A box.



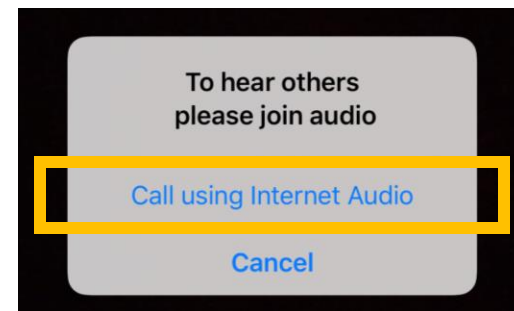
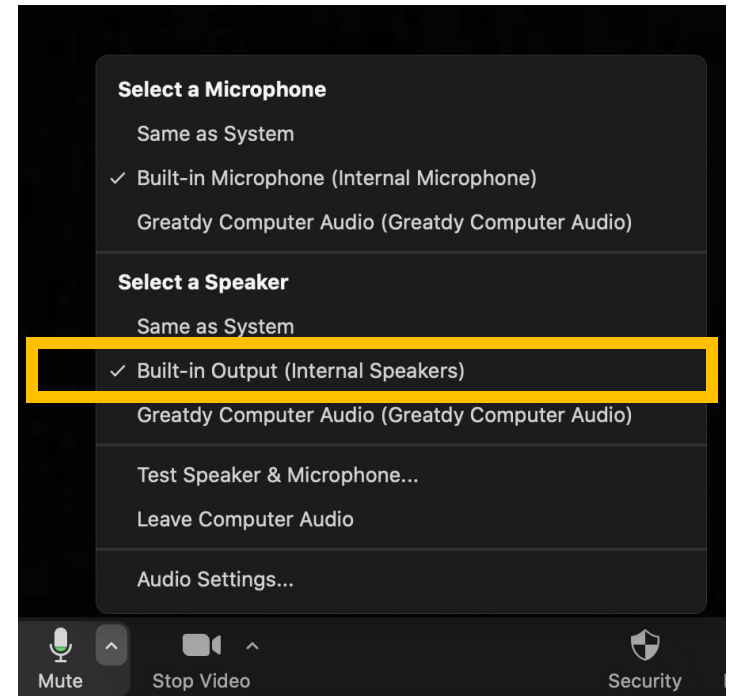
# Webinar Tips

## Can't Hear?

1. For best results, make sure to select your **Computer Audio**:
  - **Internal Speakers** (*may vary on different computers*)
2. If you have a Bluetooth device:
  - Confirm device is connected and selected

On a Mobile Device:

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# Poll Question 1

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How did you hear about this webinar?



# Objectives

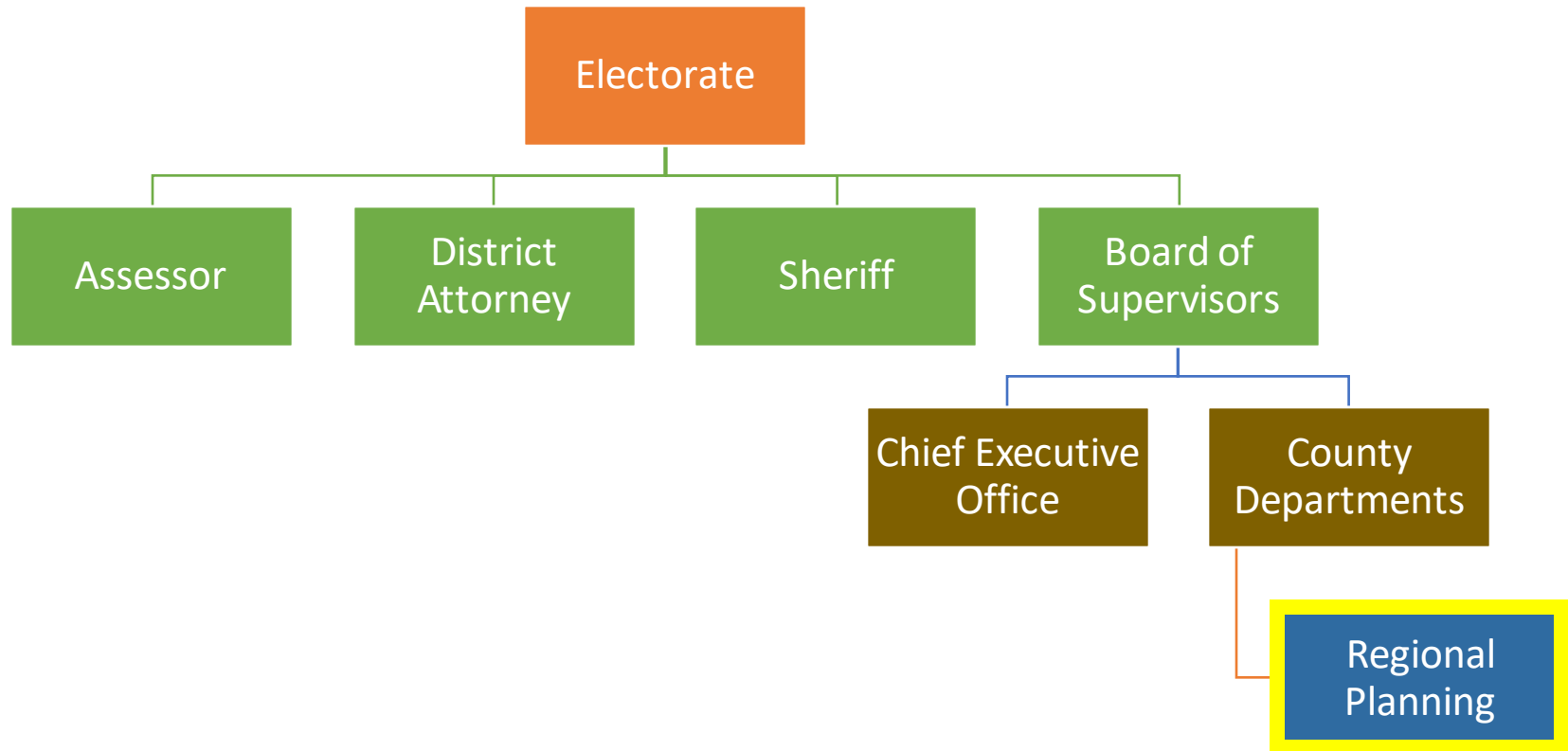
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- Intro to Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- What is the General Plan and the Safety Element?
- What is New in the Safety Element Update?
- Definitions: Climate Adaptation, Resilience, and Vulnerability
- Building on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Climate Adaptation
- How to Participate in the Safety Element Update

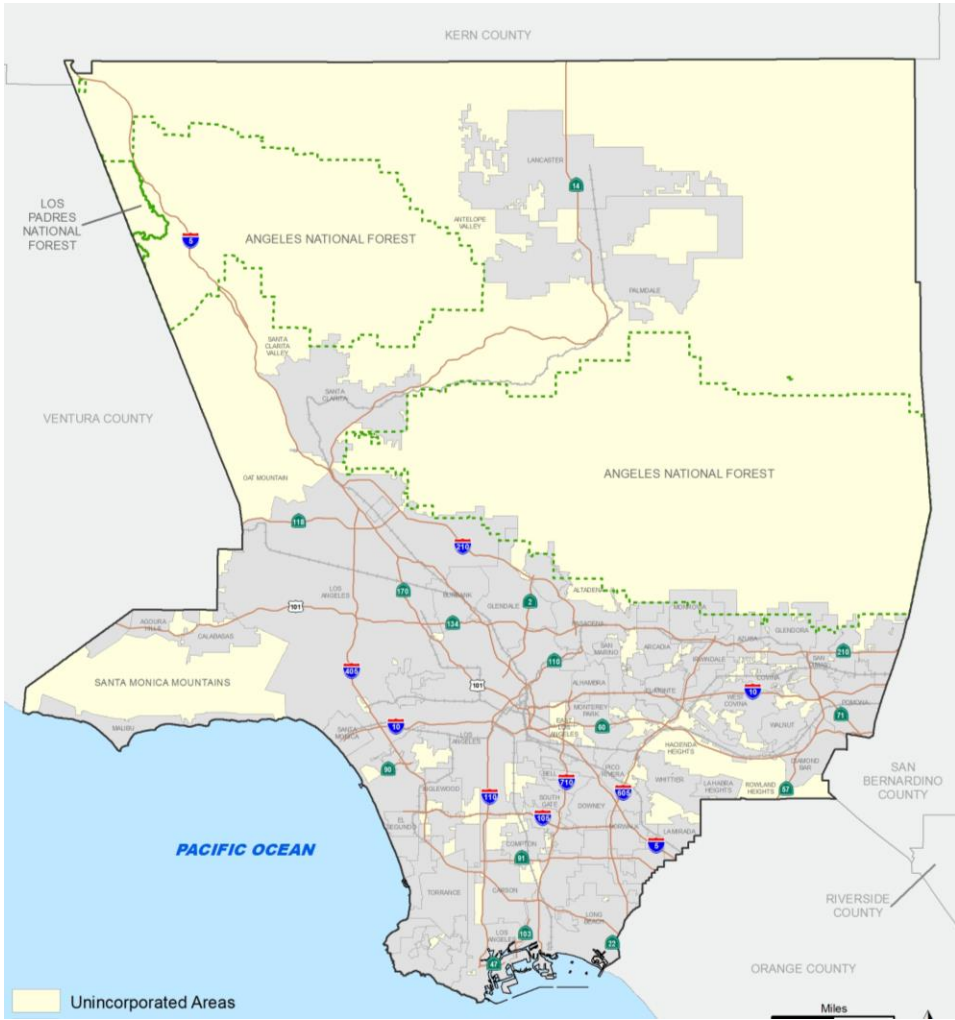


# What is the Department of Regional Planning?

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# Unincorporated Los Angeles County



LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

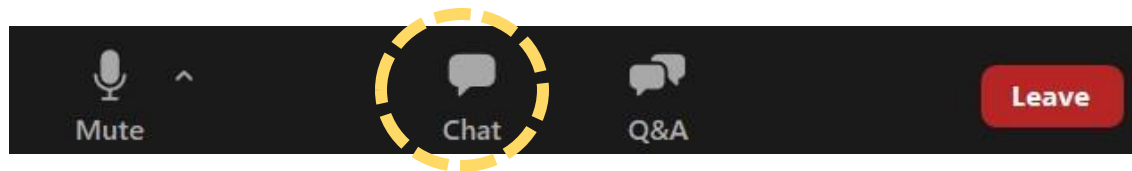


# Poll Question 2

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Where do you live?

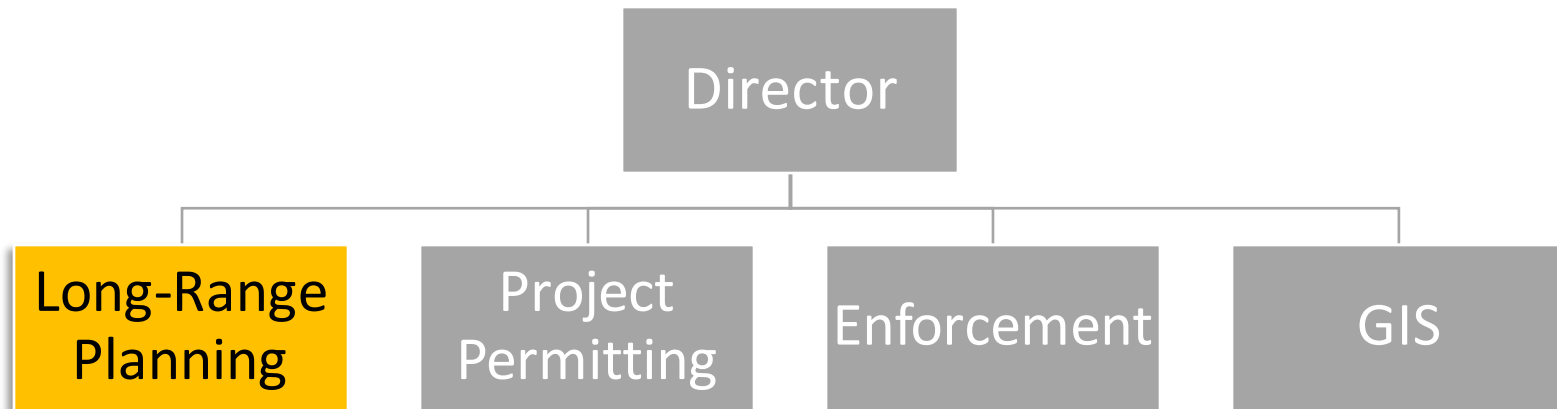
Type in your community/neighborhood name  
into the chat box.





# Inside the Department of Regional Planning

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# New State Legislation

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## Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategies

- **SB 379** (Jackson, 2015): Develop climate adaptation and resiliency goals and policies based on a climate vulnerability assessment
- **SB 1035** (Jackson, 2018): Address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in Safety Element and update data every eight years

## Evacuation Routes

- **AB 747** (Levine, 2019): Identify evacuation routes and evaluate their capacity, safety, and visibility under a range of emergency scenarios
- **SB 99** (Nielsen, 2019): Identify residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes



# More New State Legislation

## Wildfire Mitigation

- **SB 1241** (Kehoe, 2012): Develop policies to mitigate wildfire risks for developments in fire hazard areas

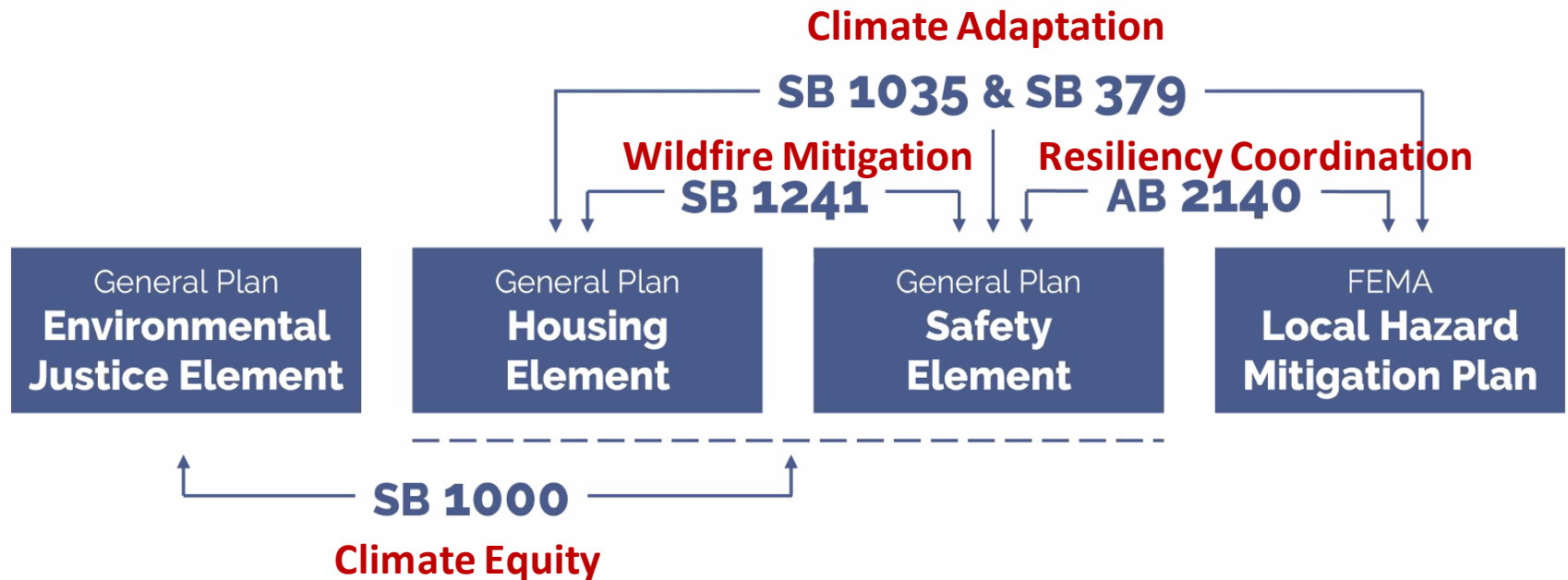
## Climate Equity

- **SB 1000** (Leyva, 2016): Identify disadvantaged communities, include policies and objectives to reduce health risks, promote engagement, and address community needs.



# Integrated Planning

**Key local planning documents are now tied together with state resilience consistency laws**



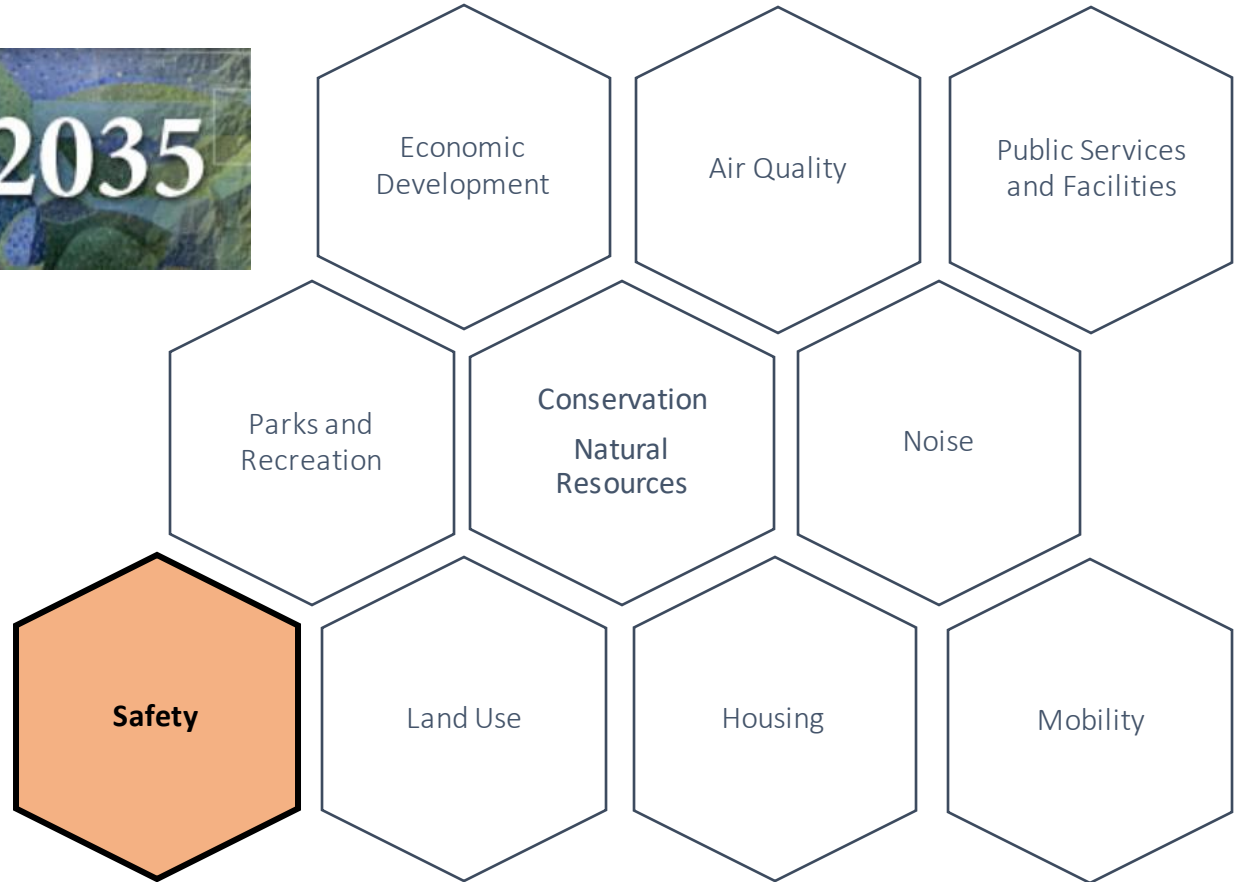
Source: California state Governor's Office of Planning and Research

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# What is the General Plan?

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# Why update the Safety Element now?

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New State  
Legislation

Climate  
Change

# What is the Safety Element?

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## Current Hazard Sections:





# Seismic



AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill



AP Photo/Doug Pizac



Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors



USGS



# Flood



*ABC 7 News*



*OC Register*

# Fire

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# Emergency Response



# Goals and Policies

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## **Goals**

A goal is a general direction-setter that expresses the community's values.

## **Policies**

A policy is a specific statement or diagram that guides decision-making. It indicates a commitment of the County to a particular course of action.

## **Implementation Programs**

Implementation programs identify actions for carrying out the policies of the General Plan.



# Safety Element - Fire

## Goals and Policies for Fire Hazards

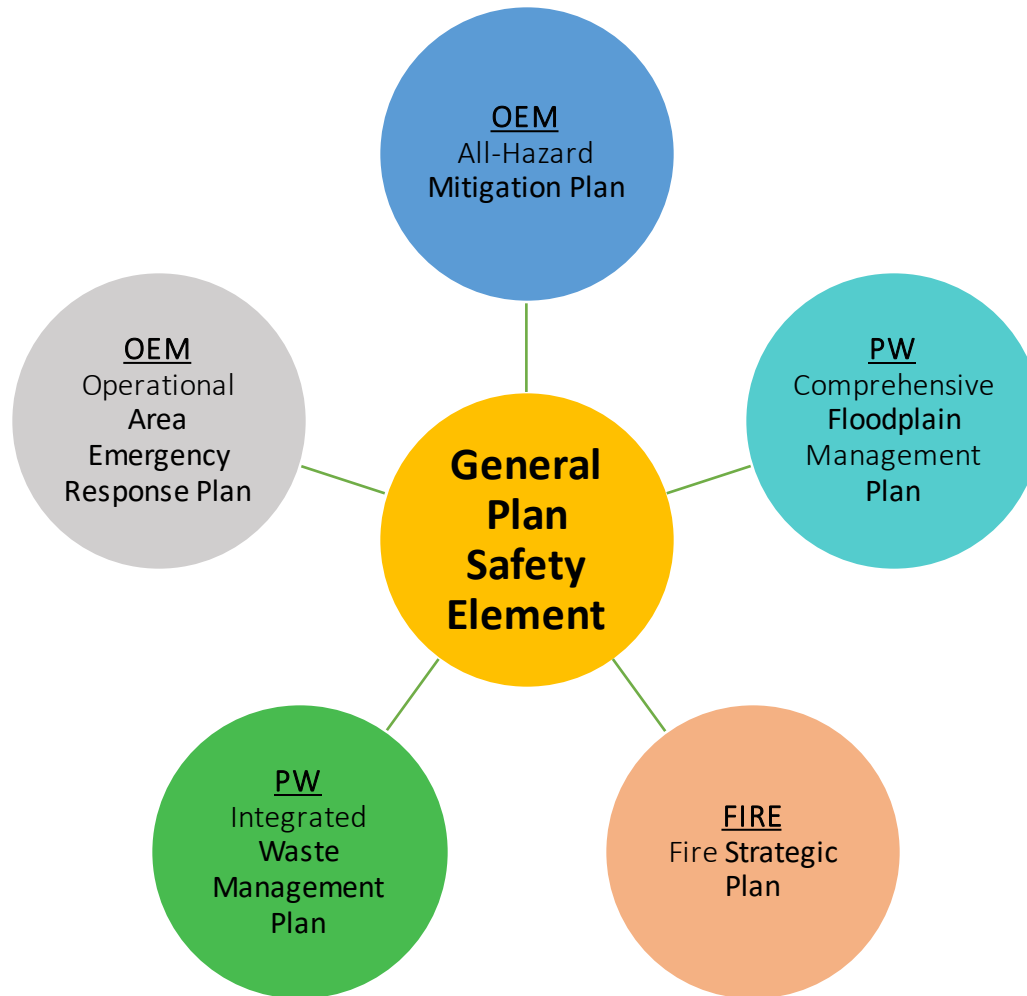
**Goal S 3: An effective regulatory system that prevents or minimizes personal injury, loss of life, and property damage due to fire hazards.**

Topic	Policy
Fire Hazards	Policy S 3.1: Discourage high density and intensity development in VHFHSZs.
	Policy S 3.2: Consider climate change implications in fire hazard reduction planning for FHSZs.
	Policy S 3.3: Ensure that the mitigation of fire related property damage and loss in FHSZs limits impacts to biological and other resources.
	Policy S 3.4: Reduce the risk of wildland fire hazards through the use of regulations and performance standards, such as fire resistant building materials, vegetation management, fuel modification and other fire hazard reduction programs.
	Policy S 3.5: Encourage the use of low-volume and well-maintained vegetation that is compatible with the area's natural vegetative habitats.



# County Plans Related to the Safety Element

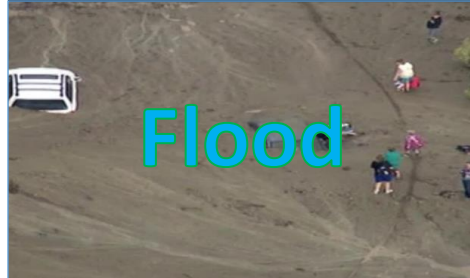
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# What's New in the Safety Element Update?

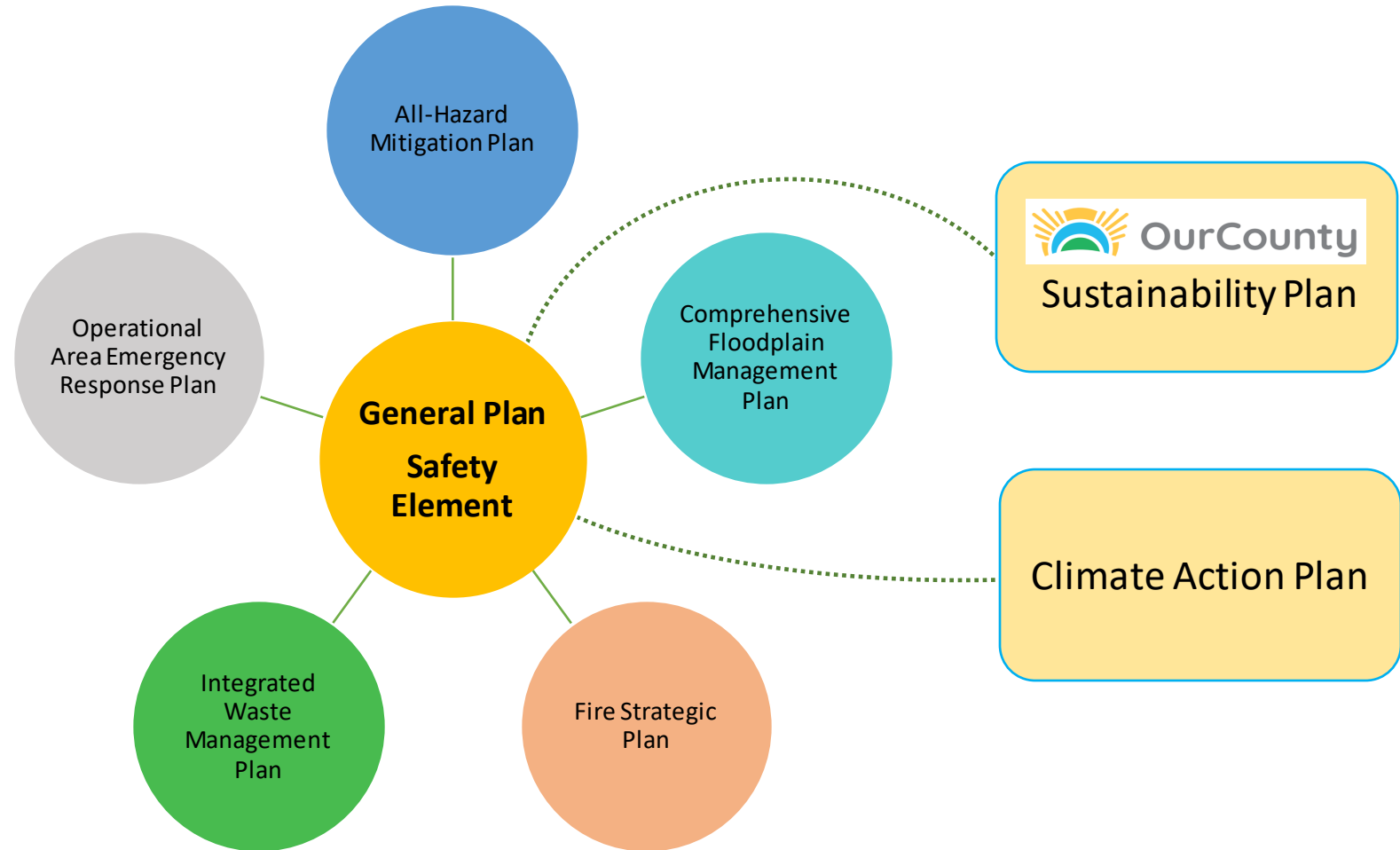
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# Coordinating with Climate Plans





# What Climate Hazards Affect Los Angeles County?

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Wildfire

Extreme  
Precipitation/  
Inland Flooding

Extreme Heat

Sea Level Rise/  
Coastal Flooding

Drought

# Poll Question 3

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**What climate hazards are you most concerned about?**

*If you have another answer that is not listed, enter it in the chat box.*



# What are Secondary Impacts?



Wildfire  
Smoke



Disease-carrying  
Vectors



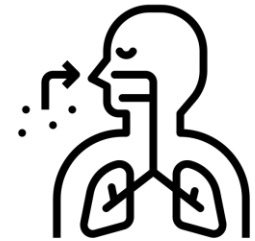
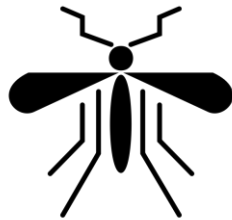
Increased  
Ozone



Saltwater  
Intrusion



Valley  
Fever



# Poll Question 4

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**What secondary impacts are you most concerned about?**

*If you have another answer that is not listed, enter it in the chat box.*



# Defining Adaptation

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## **Adaptation:**

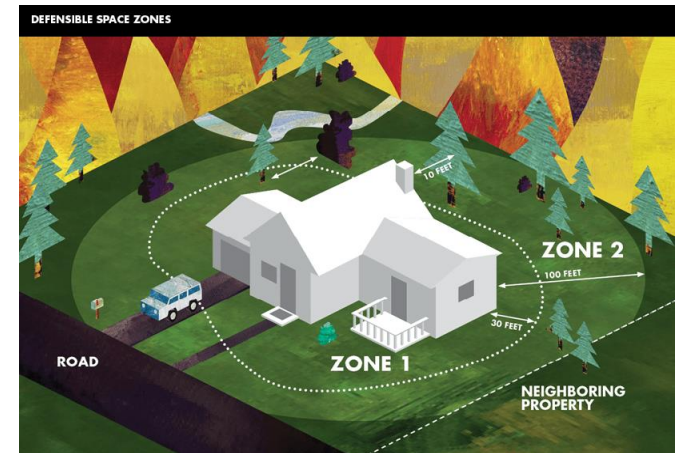
Adaptation is the process of adjusting to climate impacts to reduce harm.

(Source: Adapted from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “IPCC Special Report 2018: Global warming of 1.5°C”)



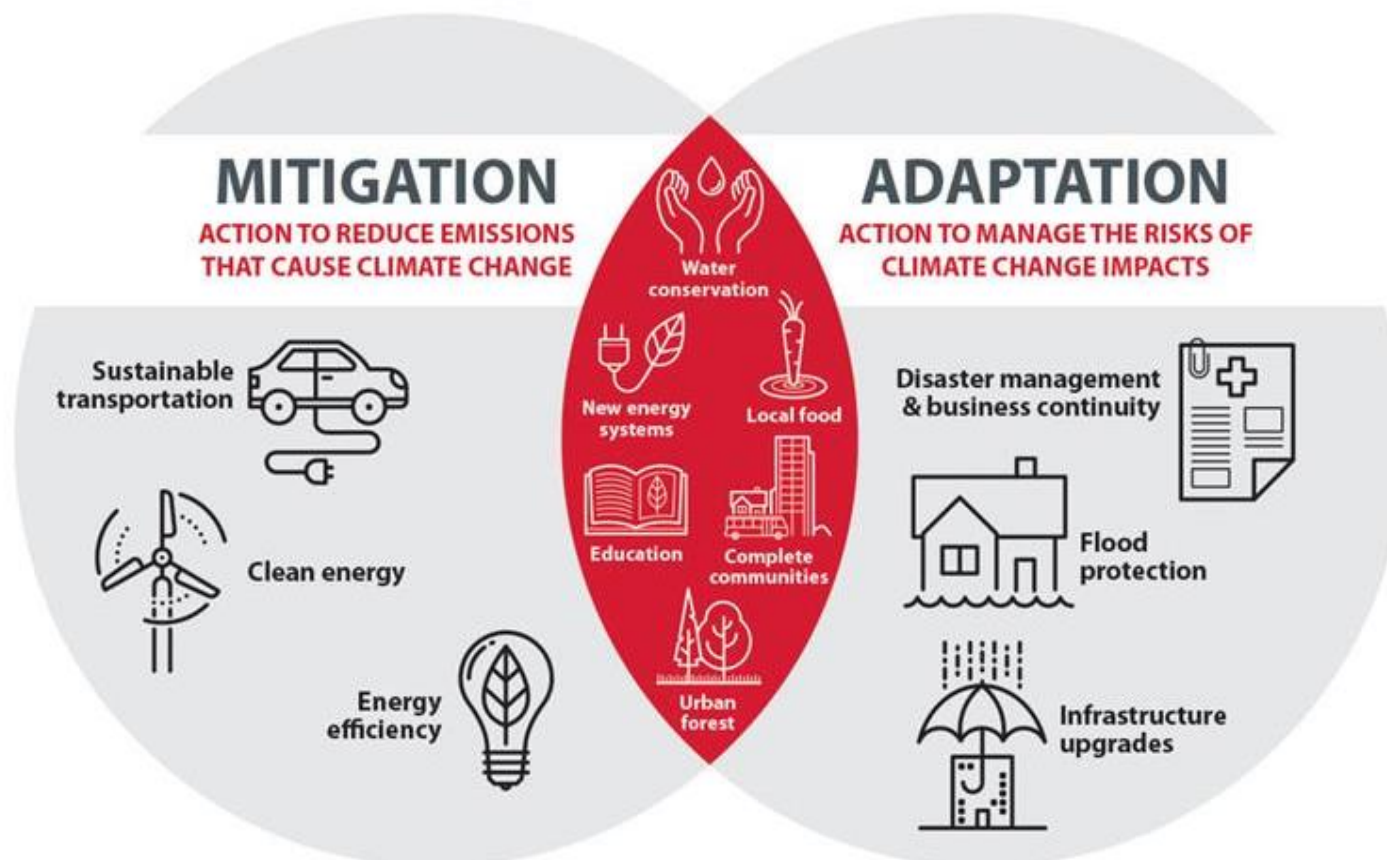
# Examples of Adaptation

Climate Hazard	Adaptation
Wildfire	Defensible Space
Flooding (Coastal and Inland)	Sandbags
Extreme Heat / Freeze	Air conditioning / heating
Public Safety Power Shutoffs (secondary impact)	Back-up Generators



# Defining Resilience

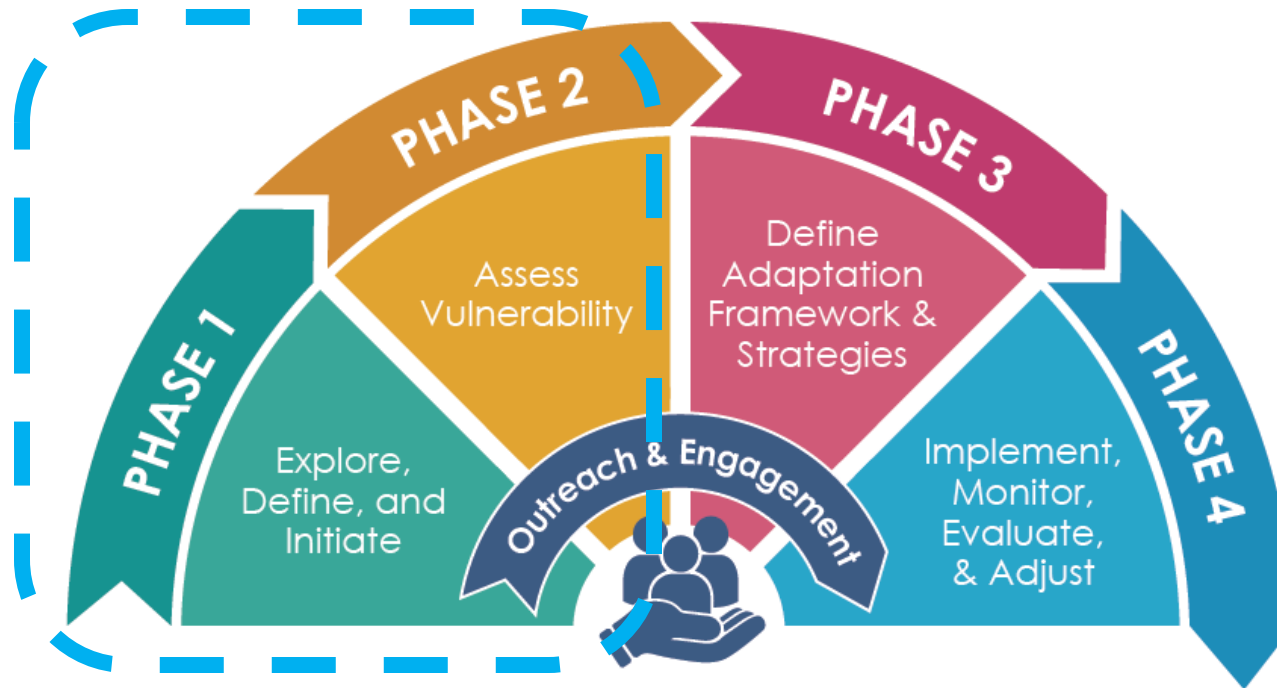
**Resilience:** The capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to cope with and respond to climate impacts while also maintaining the capacity to transform



(Image source: <https://www.calgary.ca/UEP/ESM/Pages/Energy-Savings/Climate-Change.aspx?redirect=/climateprogram>)

# How does the Adaptation Planning Process Start?

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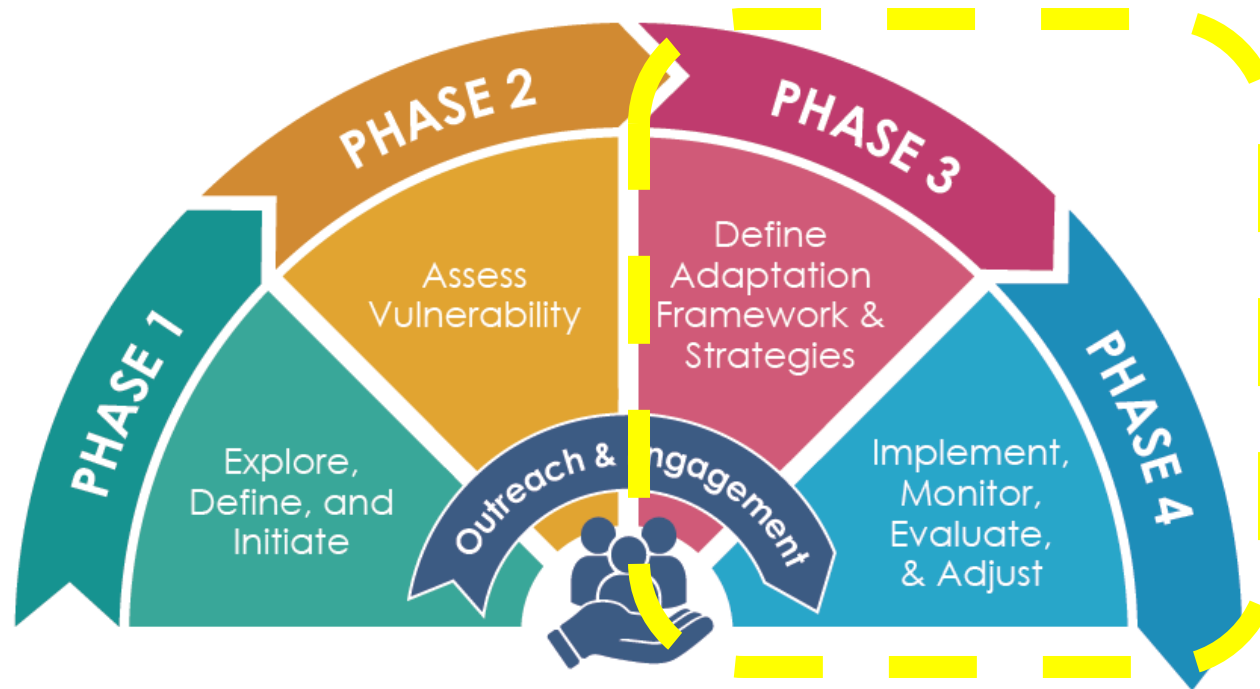
Source: California state Governor's Office of Planning and Research

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# How does the Adaptation Planning Process Continue?



Source: California state Governor's Office of Planning and Research

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# What is the Climate Vulnerability Assessment?

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From the  **OurCounty** Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan :

## Action 28A:

Conduct **a countywide climate vulnerability assessment that addresses social vulnerability** and use it to guide priorities for investments in public health preparedness, emergency preparedness and response planning, and community resiliency.

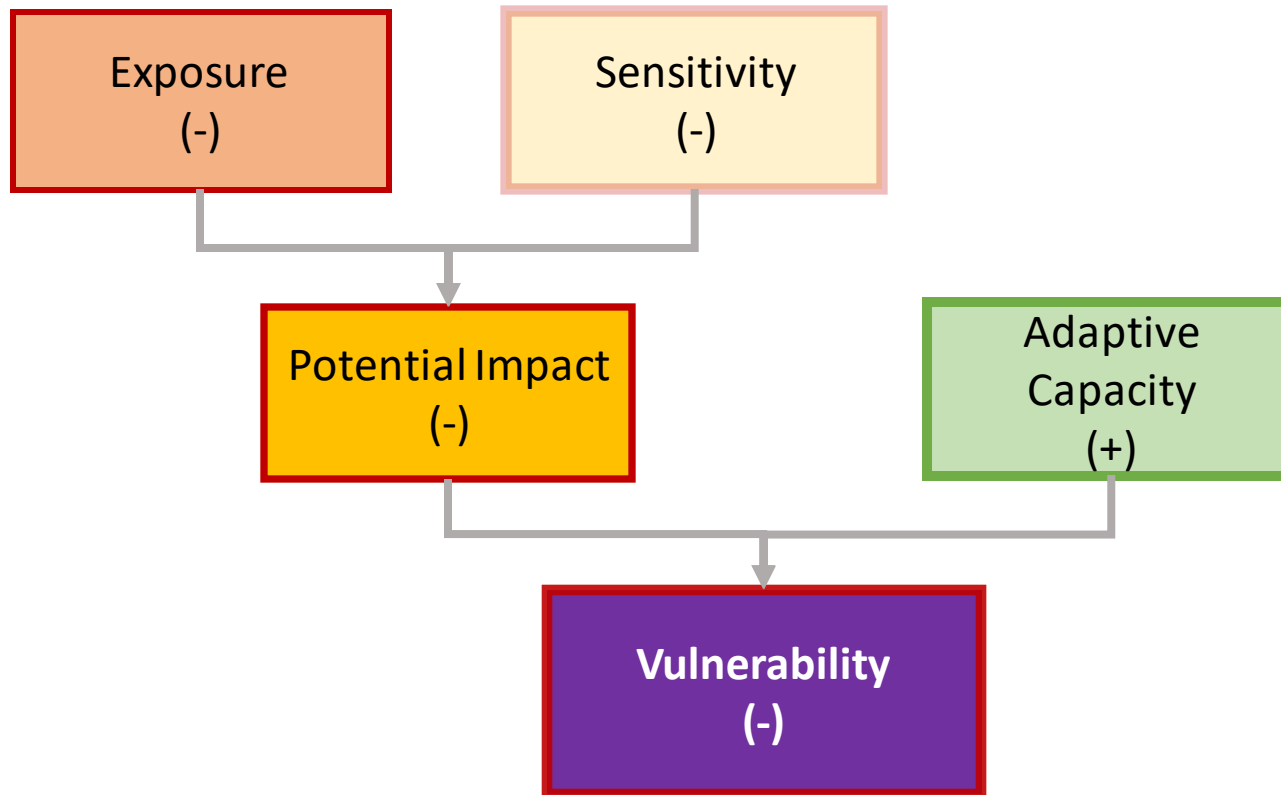
## Action 28B:

Conduct **a countywide climate vulnerability assessment that addresses physical infrastructure vulnerability** and use it to guide priorities for investments in building upgrades, infrastructure improvements, and zoning and code changes.



# Understanding Vulnerability

*In relation to a climate hazard...*

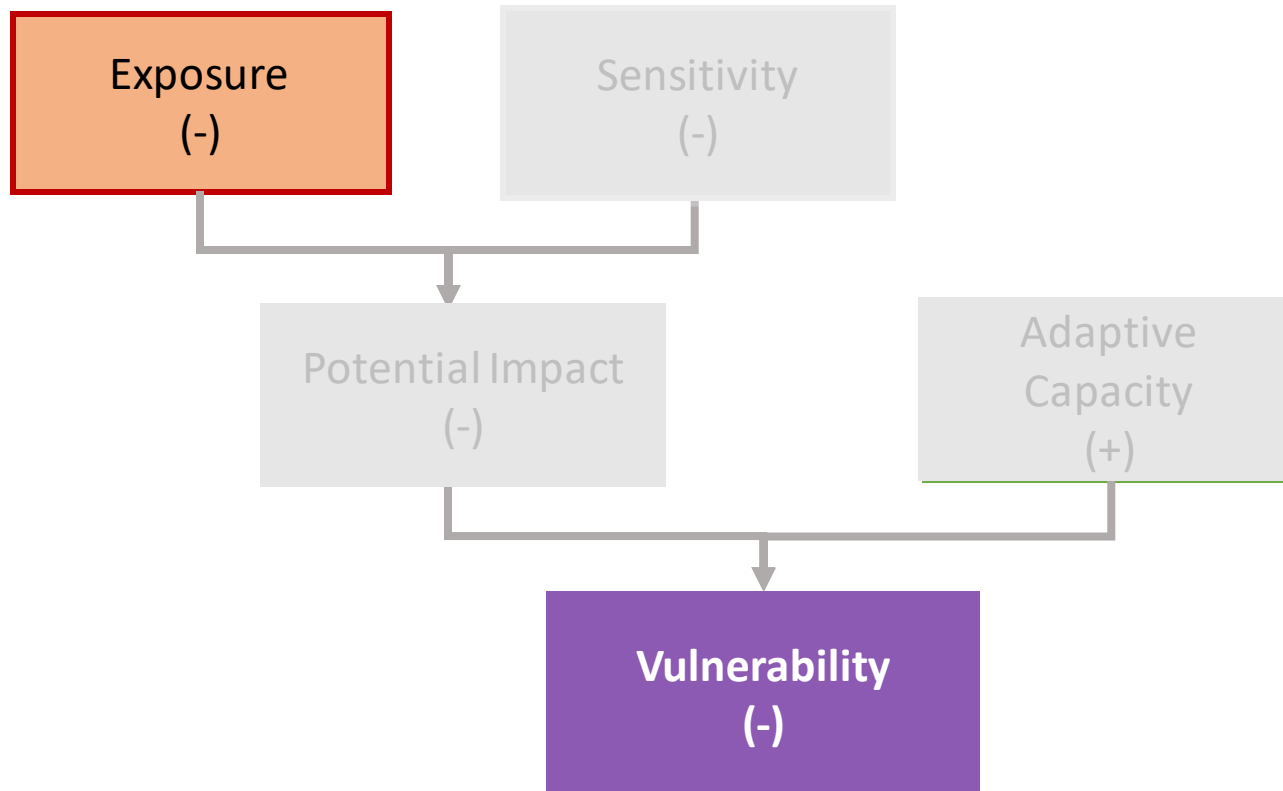


Source: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. *California Adaptation Planning Guide.*; 2020.



# Understanding Exposure

*In relation to a climate hazard...*



Source: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. *California Adaptation Planning Guide.*; 2020.



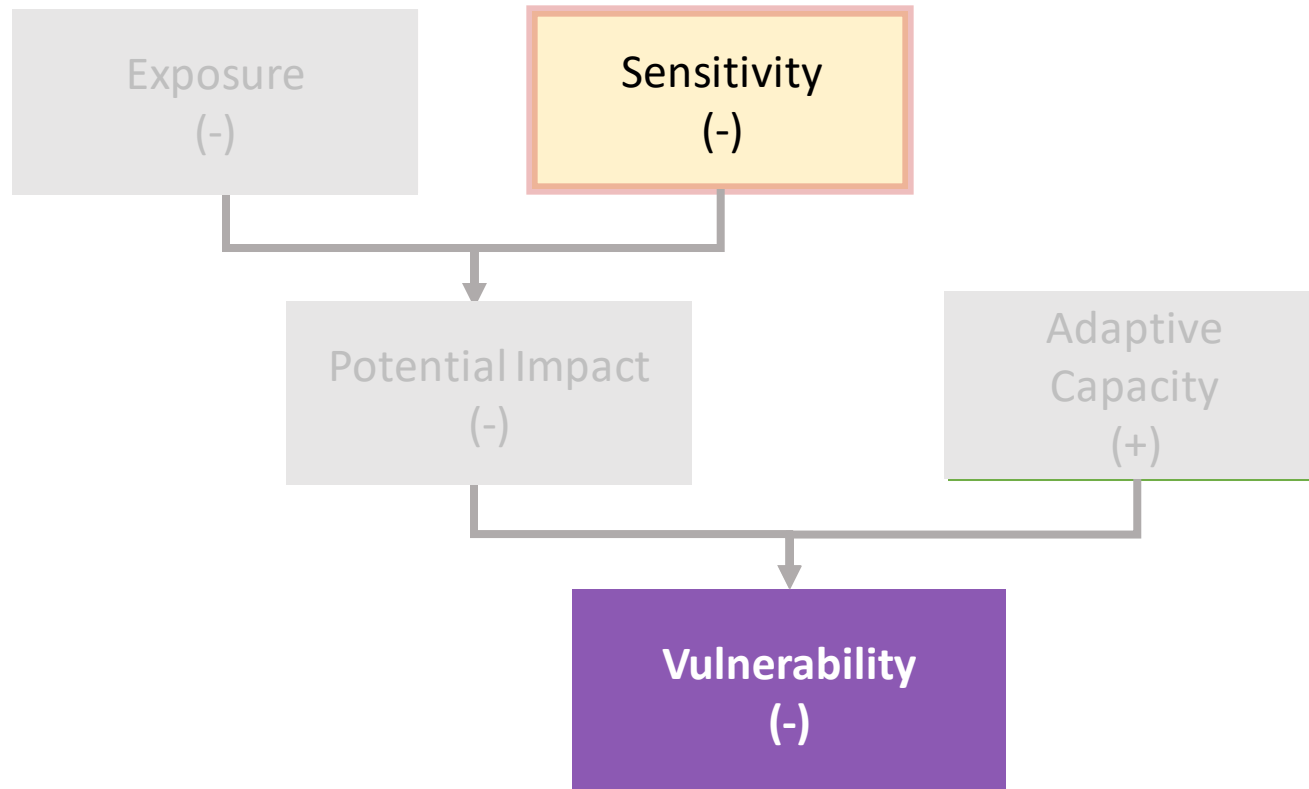
# Examples of Exposure

*In relation to a climate hazard...*



# Understanding Sensitivity

*In relation to a climate hazard...*



Source: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. *California Adaptation Planning Guide.*; 2020.

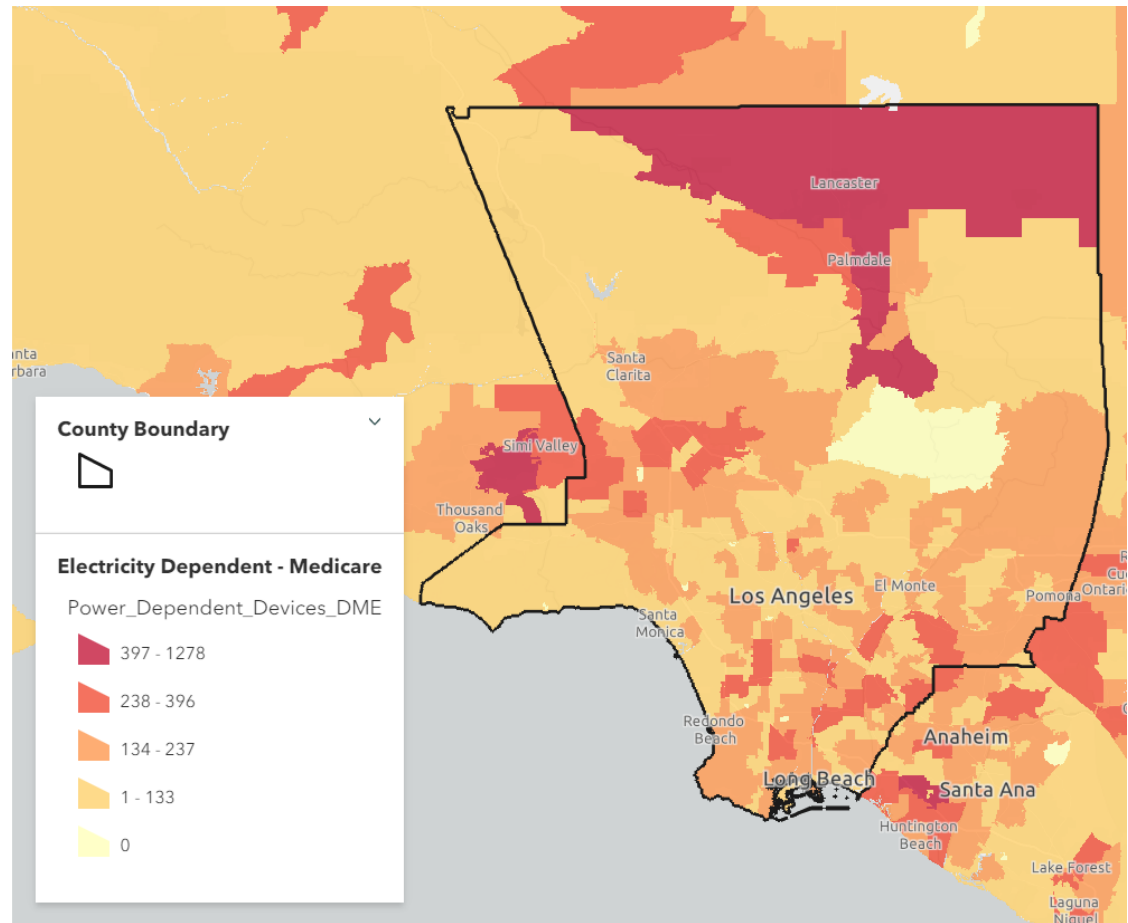


# Examples of Sensitivity

## Population: People with Electricity Dependence

This map is drawing from a live service from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that has published an online map called emPOWER Map 3.0 (click [here](#) to access this resource). A brief summary of this data from their site is below:

*"Over 2.5 million Medicare beneficiaries rely on electricity-dependent medical equipment, such as ventilators, to live independently in their homes. Severe weather and other emergencies, especially those with long power outages, can be life-threatening for these individuals."*

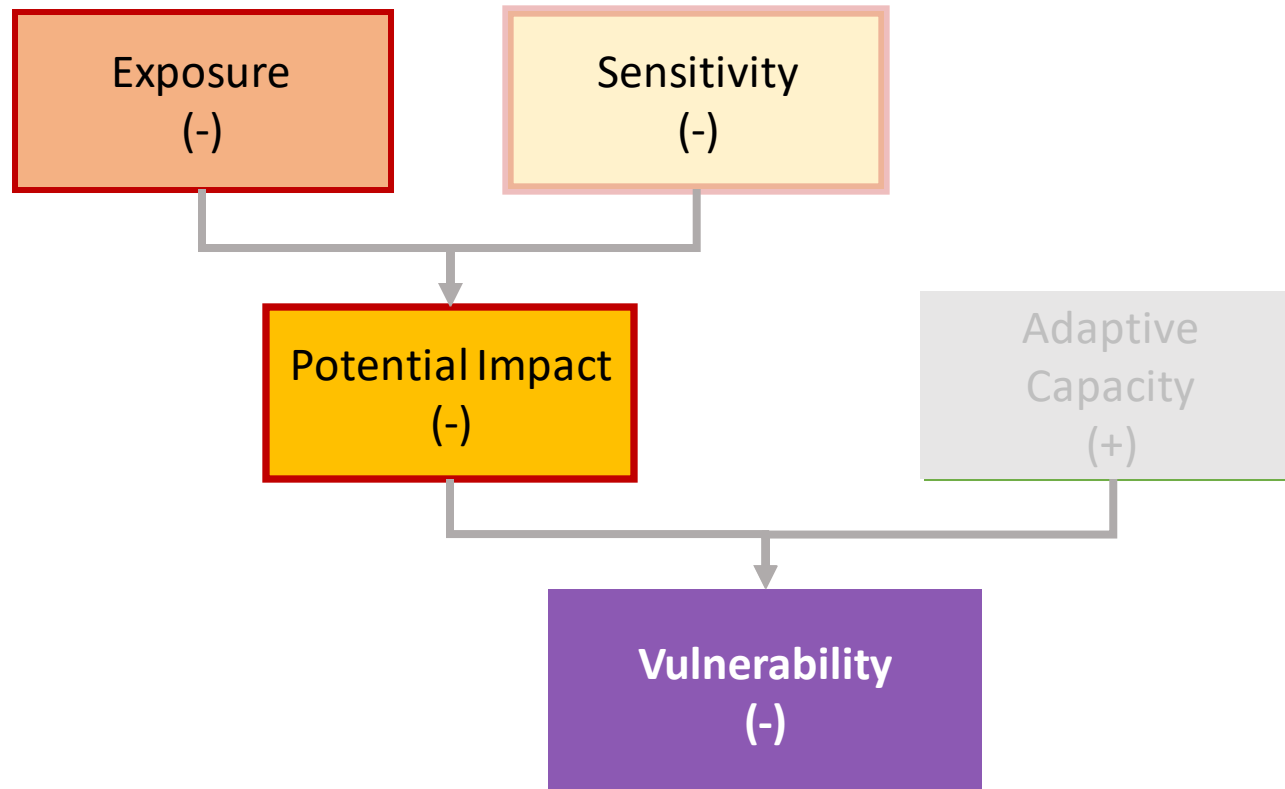


(Data Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, emPOWER Map 3.0)



# Understanding Potential Impact

*In relation to a climate hazard...*



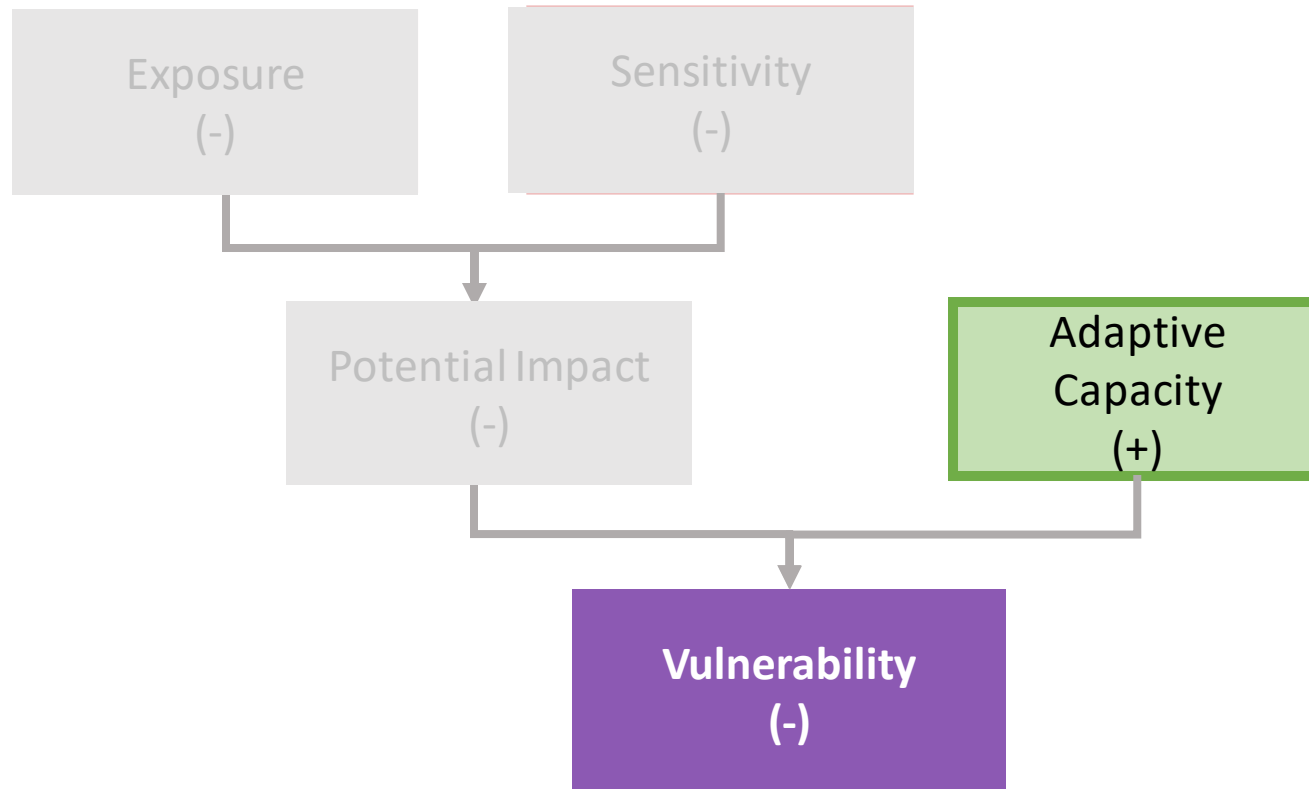
Source: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. *California Adaptation Planning Guide.*; 2020.





# Understanding Adaptive Capacity

*In relation to a climate hazard...*



Source: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. *California Adaptation Planning Guide.*; 2020.



# Examples of Adaptive Capacity

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- Neighborhood characteristics
- Social, economic and institutional capacity
- Cognition, perception, and willingness to adjust

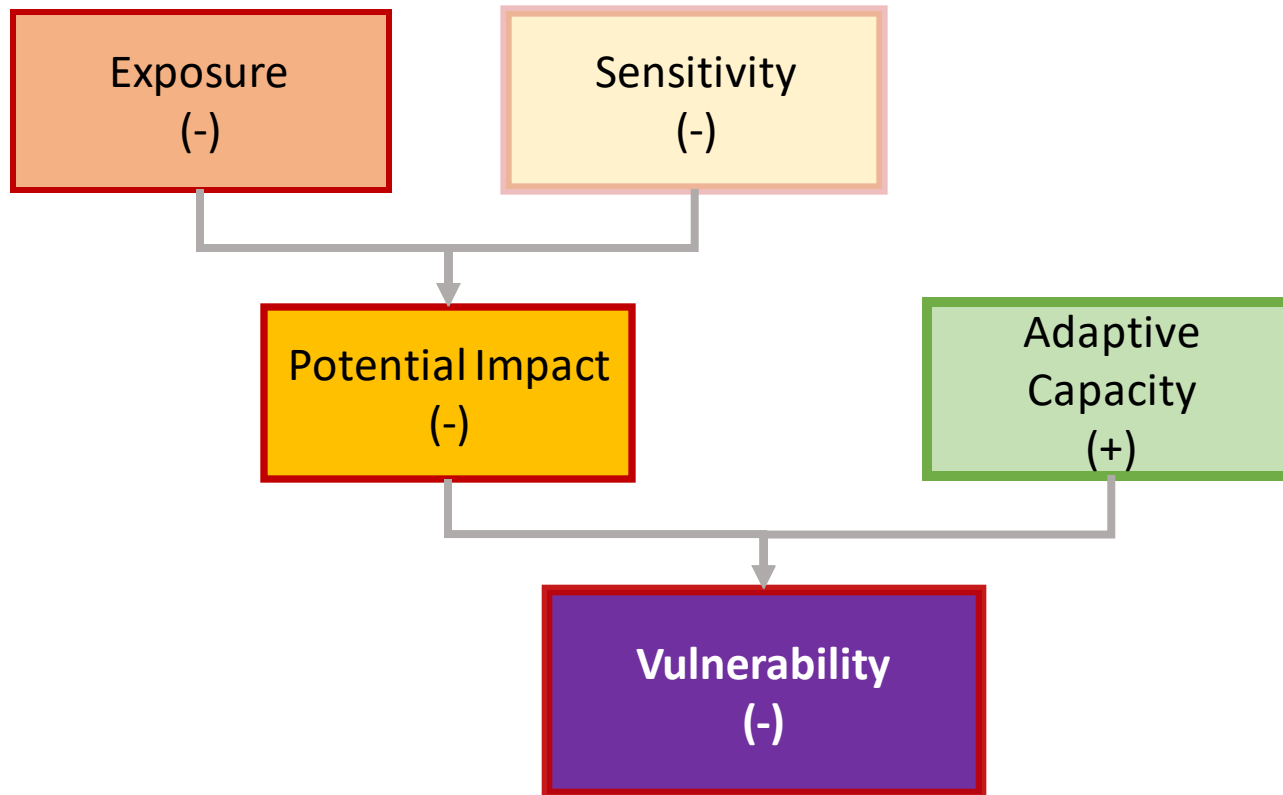


<https://www.kcet.org/shows/socal-connected/aerial-view-of-la-neighborhoods-reveals-tree-disparities>



# Understanding Vulnerability

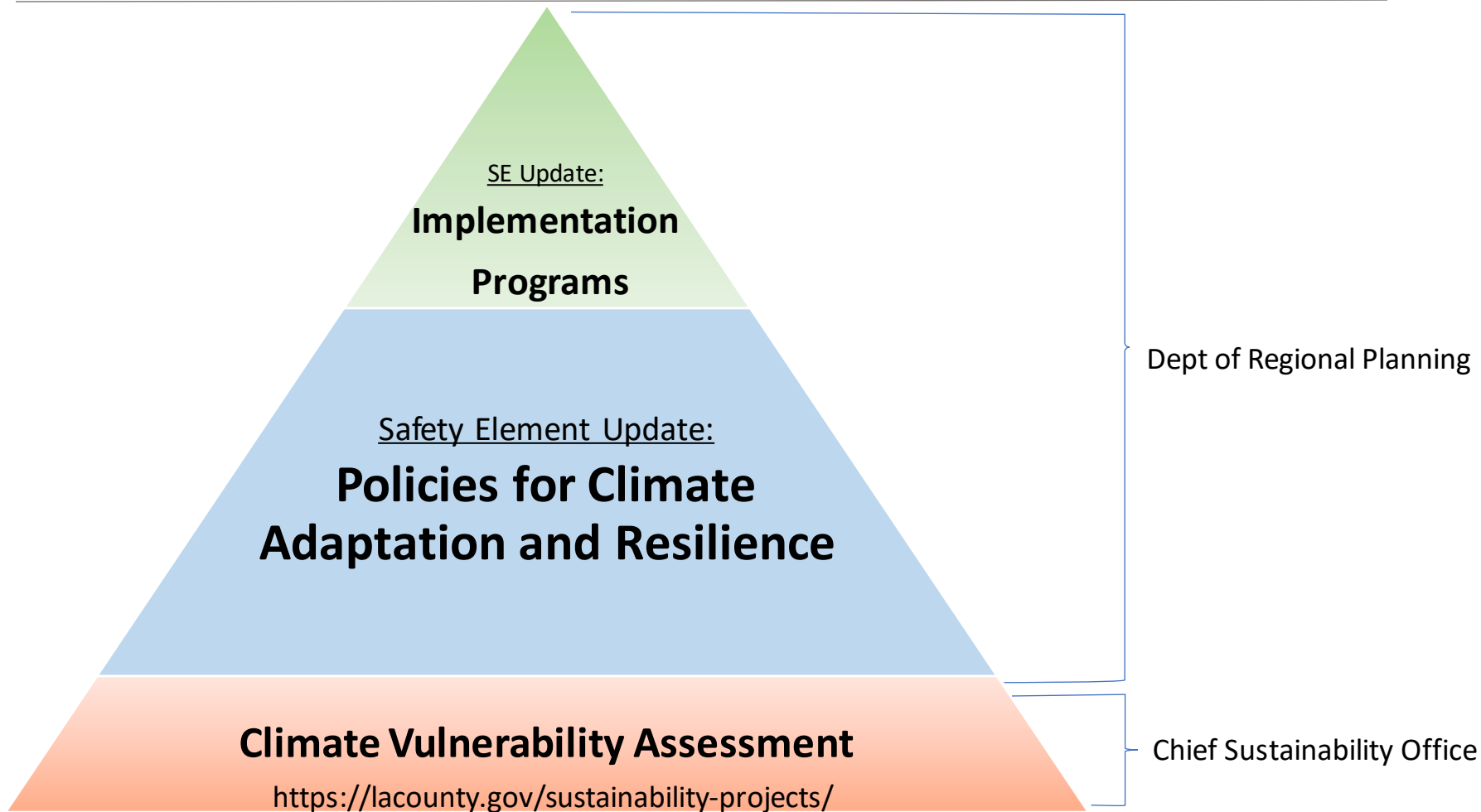
*In relation to a climate hazard...*



Source: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. *California Adaptation Planning Guide.*; 2020.



# Building on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment



# Poll Question 5

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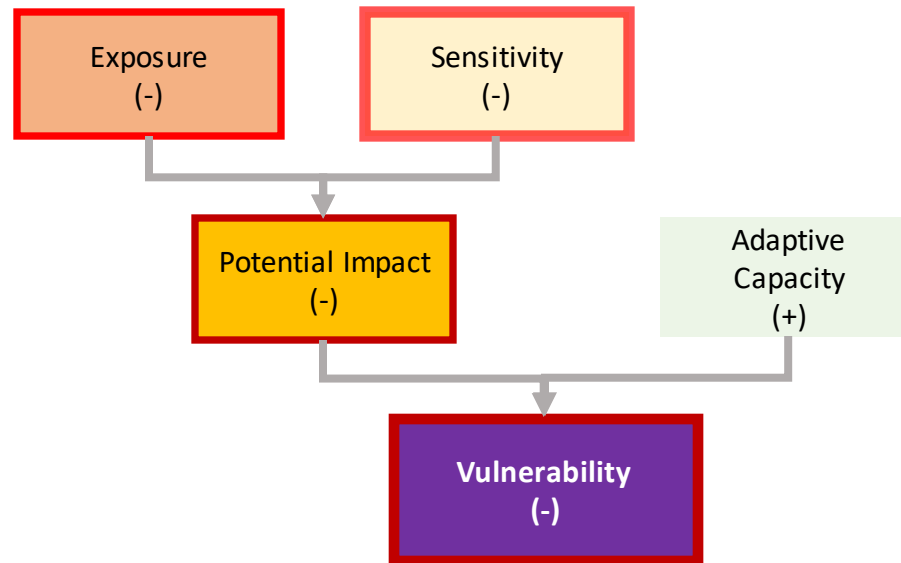
**What types of strategies would most benefit your community?**

*If you have another answer that is not listed, enter it in the chat box.*



# Climate Equity

- **Vulnerable communities** experience heightened exposure and increased sensitivity to climate change and have less capacity and fewer resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from climate impacts.



Source: ICARP Technical Advisory Committee, 2020. Technical Advisory Council. Available online: <https://www.opr.ca.gov/planning/icarp/tac/>

# Learning from Community Stories

## Woolsey Fire (2018)

- Exposure of low wage immigrant workers
  - Outdoor workers: domestic workers (nannies, housecleaners, housekeepers, caregivers), day laborers (gardening, construction, landscaping)
- Communication & evacuation/road closures
- Working as “second responders & Wildfire smoke exposure



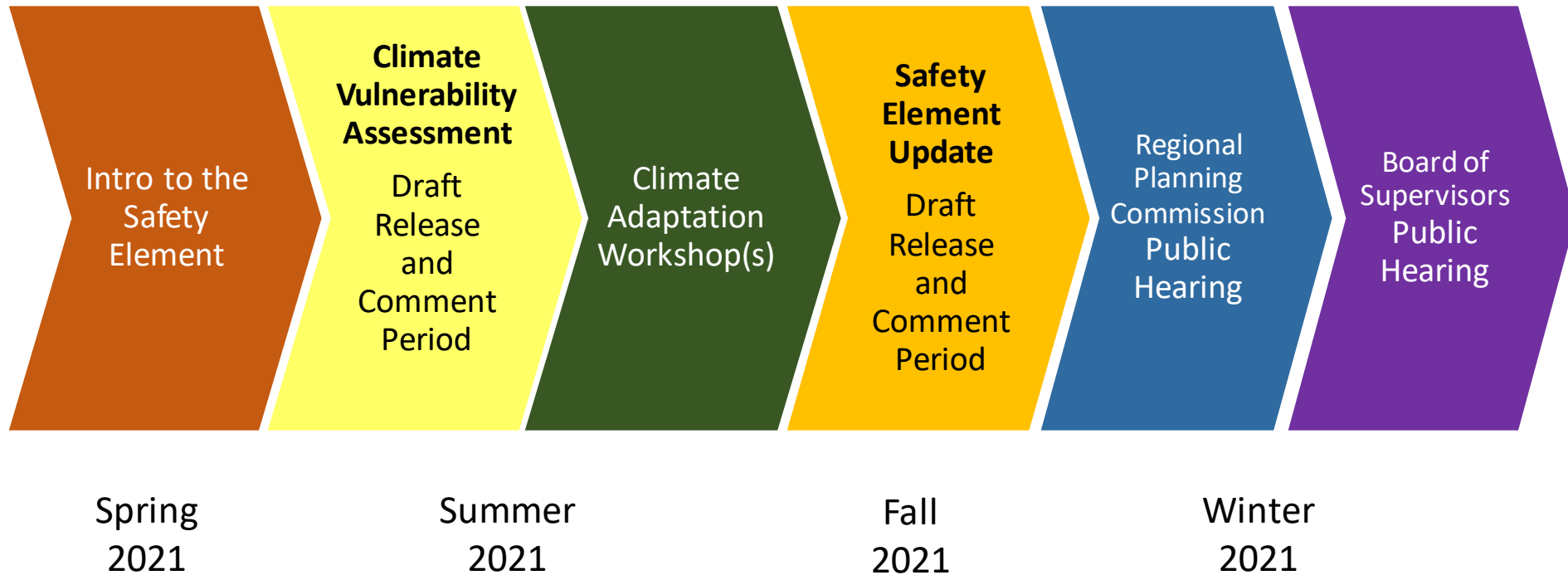
Photo taken by domestic worker at the home she was working in Malibu during Woolsey fires.



Fires last year (Nov 2019) in Palisades area/Getty fires. KTLA 5

# Timeline for the Safety Element Update Process

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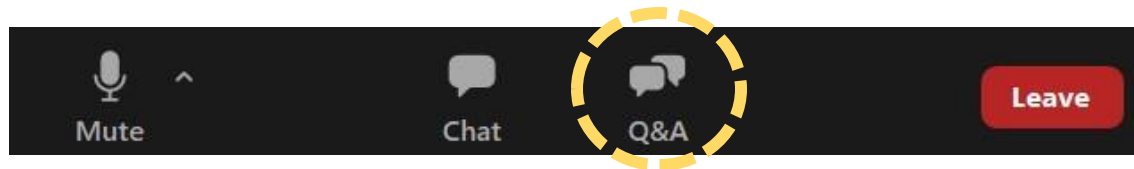




# Q&A

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Please type your questions into the Q&A box.



# Thank you!

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## Contact:

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<https://planning.lacounty.gov/site/climate/safety-element-update/>

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